

MCAAE Historical Context

- **Need:** A 1994 study of Long Term Care options for African American elders for the Mayor's Roundtable identified **unmet needs of increasingly frail African American elders living in poverty and poor housing conditions with high rates of health problems.**
- **Strategy:** The study recommended the **development of a service continuum** to include:
 - 1) specialized information and referral, case management, and outreach services;
 - 2) community-based and residential services; and
 - 3) health prevention and wellness programs.**It also recommended the ongoing assessment of the existing service delivery system to determine gaps in service and some entity (new or existing) taking the responsibility for developing needed services in the continuum of care for African American elders.**
- **Target Group:** The target group was defined by specific zip codes in **Central and Southeast Seattle** given their high concentration of African Americans over 60. Other agencies providing case management/referral (Seattle Housing Authority, Senior Services, Aging & Disability Services) were not serving the higher need, isolated African American elders. Criteria included: chronically ill, frail, or disabled; unable to obtain services or perform activities of daily living; isolated; low-income; at risk of premature institutionalization; in need of multiple services in order to remain in their home; lacking formal and informal support systems.
- **Council Purpose and Focus:** MCAAE was created in 1995 by Mayor Norm Rice to **oversee the development of a comprehensive continuum of services to serve the needs of African American elders.** Much of the Council's efforts to date have focused on developing, shaping and ensuring the future of the specialized services known as the African American Elders Project (AAEP). MCAAE has intended to transfer AAEP's service delivery effort to a spin-off non-profit since the inception of the project. The Council incorporated as a non-profit in order to transfer that status to a new start-up entity. The Council has sponsored community events to increase the profile of the project and develop potential donors. Some individuals have been recruited for the purpose of forming a board for the new agency.

- **Service Efforts:** The African American Elders Project (AAEP) began serving the target population with case management and linkage services in 1997 provided by case managers, nursing and outreach staff through a Partnership of Aging & Disability Services (ADS), Public Health, and Senior Services. AAEP funding, staffing, profile and number of clients served has increased over time. A Services Delivery Committee comprised of representatives from the Partnership oversees the service delivery implementation. Turnover of staffing has impacted project volunteer coordination and marketing efforts.
- **Council Composition:** The Council is made up of members recommended to and appointed by the Mayor. The current composition includes individuals with expertise in aging, public health, social work and research. One of the Council members was involved in the development of the MCAAE, but the Council has experienced significant turnover and half of the current members have served one year or less as of 4/03.
- **Council staffing:** Staffing for MCAAE has declined over time from 2 staff to currently very limited part-time staffing from ADS. The staff person was involved at the inception of the Council and the AAEP.
- **Funding:** Funding for case managers is currently designated in the City's biennial budget through 2003. Public Health funding for the nurse is uncertain for 2005. Senior Services funding for the outreach worker is committed through 2004.